

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

January 15, 2018

The Commissioners' meeting opened promptly at 7:00 a.m. Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Ripley County Highway Garage, Osgood, Indiana. All Commissioners were in attendance as well as Auditor Wagner.

Superintendent Toops advised the commissioners that ETC was to start the w/o 1/22/18 replacing the phone system at the highway garage.

Some additional equipment for the camera system had to be ordered and will complete the installation when received.

Foreman Kissell advised the roller was to be at the dealer and should be delivered within the next few weeks.

The trucks had a problem with the hoists and new ones were ordered by the manufacturing company.

With no further business to attend, Commissioner Stratton moved to recess to the annex. Commissioner Linville seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Stratton moved to reconvene the meeting with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes and Commissioner Stutler opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. Commissioners Stutler, Linville, Stratton, County Attorney Ertel, and Auditor Wagner were in attendance.

Maintenance—Mr. John Lohrum 8:02:00

Commissioner Stratton advised Dunlap had offered their engineer to prepare specs for the boiler replacement in the courthouse that all who want to quote would be able to use without cost. Auditor Wagner was instructed to call QPH and advise the engineering firm they were contacting would not be needed at this time.

Property Concerns—Mr. Stephen Marks

Mr. Marks addressed the commissioners with a problem he was having with his neighbor, Mr. Gary Simpson. Mr. Simpson's has an easement for his septic field on Mr. Marks property and they share a common driveway. Mr. Marks stated he is always receiving notices of complaints from county and state government agencies as well as calls from the Sheriff's Office that Mr. Simpson is continually filing. Mr. Marks claimed Mr. Simpson is using the government agencies to harass him and is wasting county and state resources. He requested the commissioners help him in stopping the harassment. During the discussion County Surveyor Jeff French and County Health Director stated the claims have been a problem for several years. Sheriff Jeff Cumberworth also stated he was constantly receiving call from both parties. The commissioners stated they could not advise office holders how to run their respective offices and could not have them stop taking calls from

the residents of the county not matter how many times a specific person called. They also advised Mr. Marks that they had no right to become involved in civil matters such as this and County Attorney Ertel advised Mr. Marks to obtain a protective order if he felt threatened or had been threatened. If the restraining order was violated then it would become a criminal matter to be sorted out within the court system. At this point the discussion broke down and Mr. Marks and his wife left the meeting.

Elections—Ms. Ginger Bradford

Ms. Bradford explained to the commissioners she had been informed by the Technology Department that they would no longer input the election cards into the system on the night of elections. She stated the elections were part of the commissioners' duties and they would need to help her find someone to do this on elections night.

Ms. Kelly Vollet stated she would be available to standby to make sure the computer hardware was operational but would not be responsible for election duties such as election card input.

Technology—Ms. Kelly Vollet

Ms. Vollet advised the commissioners that ETC had to order parts to complete the phone installation at the annex building.

She advised GBS that has the software for the elections had trained people in the past to do the duties needed and could do so again. She will post the opening on the website.

EMA—Mr. Patrick Rose

Mr. Rose advised the contract with the Hazmat team from Greater Cincinnati was being sent for signatures.

Sheriff—Sheriff Cumberworth

Sheriff Cumberworth presented the commissioners with two new hires for jailers, Mr. Scott Pennington and Mr. Donald Irrgang.

8:50:41 BREAK

EMS—Mr. Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman provided the commissioners with a new hire, Mr. Ben Marks.

Dog Warden—Mr. Perry Hardy

Mr. Hardy questioned if there was an outline of specific requirements for the position. He was told that there was not and to use his discretion on how to handle the position. He is to hold the dogs if possible for a period and then if the Ripley County Humane Society does not take them they will be put down.

Commissioner Stutler brought up the issue of comp time being used by office holders for

the employees prior to the 8:00 am start time. He stated that his opinion was comp time was not being abused and office holders should continue to operate as they have been. After discussion all commissioners agreed to not take any action changing the current way of operation.

The current procedure of paying overtime after actual hours worked exceeded 40 hours per week was questioned. Commissioner Stutler stated he felt that all hours (vacation, sick, comp) should be counted in a week to meet the 40 hour minimum rather than actual hours worked. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Linville moved to table how overtime at the highway garage for further investigation. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes to table.

Veterans-Mr. Ken Hylton&Mr. Joseph DeVito, State District Officer, Southeast

Mr. DeVito addressed the commissioners with statistics of the veterans helped and the amount of benefits being received by local veterans and the funds being put into the local economy. The Veterans Affairs are promoting the idea that the Veterans Service Officers offices should be open full time and the positions in the offices be full time to assist additional veterans.

Highway—Superintendent Ray Toops

Mr. Toops made the commissioners aware of an invoice that had been received from Janell Concrete and Masonry Equipment Company for 24 inch base ties supposedly ordered by a former employee. Upon his investigation the company cannot explain where or why we received the invoice as they have no record of the former employee requesting an order being placed and they would clear the account and since the county had not received the items UPS would return them to the company.

Commissioner Linville moved to pay claims with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes. Minutes of the January 2 and January 15 meeting will be presented at the next meeting due to illness of Auditor Wagner.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Vouchers, Claim Vouchers, and Claims being paid from the commissioners' budget.

With no other business to attend, Commissioner Linville moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

_____ Gary Stutler

_____ Rodney Stratton

_____ Robert Linville

Attest: _____ William Lee Wagner—Ripley County Auditor